

32. (new) The receiver of claim 28 wherein the second information receiving layer includes material selected from the group consisting of polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP), polyester ionomers, polyethylene oxide and copolymers of vinyl alcohol.

#### REMARKS

Applicants have filed a continuing prosecution application in response to the final rejection mailed April 8, 2002. This preliminary amendment adds new claims 19-32. Claims 13-18 are retained. In particular, independent claims 13 and 14 are amended.

Original claims 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, on grounds that specification allegedly did not evidence the "more hydrophilic" property of the clear layer that was formed over the information receiving layer.

Claims 13 and 14 as amended now recite that the clear layer is more hydrophilic than the image receiving structure. The image receiving structure, as disclosed in the application, includes the hydrophobic, clear, transparent and water-resistant layer 62. As such, the application provides support for an image receiving structure that is less hydrophilic than a clear layer that holds a water-based colorant image. Accordingly, the claims are supported by the specification because the presence of the hydrophobic layer in an image receiving structure renders the image receiving structure less hydrophilic than the clear, hydrophilic layer that is formed over the image receiving structure.

More simply stated, layer 80 is a hydrophilic layer. It is on top of an image receiving structure whose upper most layer is a hydrophobic layer 62. Accordingly, it is logical and inherent that the hydrophilic layer 80 is more hydrophilic than the image receiving structure. The image receiving structure is bounded on one side by the hydrophobic layer and on the other side by at least the support layer and optionally, a barrier layer.

Claims 13 and 14 are broadly written to claim a structure that has a superior clear layer "more hydrophilic" than the inferior image receiving structure. One way of achieving this invention is use of a hydrophilic layer beneath the superior hydrophilic layer. No art of record shows a receiver that holds two images, one on top of the other, without merging the image on a common layer. As such, claims 13 and 14 is commensurate with the invention.

New independent claim 19 includes the limitation of “a protective transparent water-resistant layer over the information receiving layer or preventing penetration of water-based colorants onto the information receiving layer.” It is submitted that none of the art of record show a receiver sheet that has an image receiving structure with such a protective transparent water-resistant layer that is in turn covered with a clear layer for receiving and holding water-base colorant images. This juxtaposition of a water-resistant layer and a layer that receives and holds water-base colorant images is not shown by any of the art of record.

Claim 23 defines the invention at least in part in terms of the function of the layer that is over the information receiving layer and beneath the clear layer. In particular it includes the limitation that defines means over the information receiving layer for preventing penetration of water-based colorants onto the information receiving layer.

Claim 28 defines the invention in terms of three layers including two information receiving layers separated by a clear image protection layer that protects the lower information receiving layer from water-based colorants.

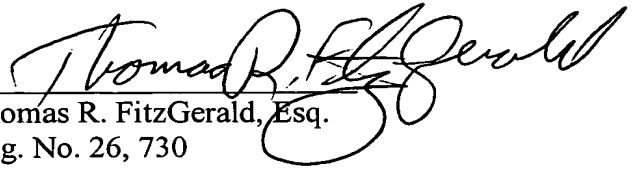
None of the art of record shows or suggests a receiver that holds two images separated by a clear protective layer. The Iqbal (5,389,732) reference is wholly deficient to show the claimed invention. In each of the examples of Iqbal there is only one image layer, the SPIN layer. As such, Iqbal fails to show or suggest the invention.

Hasegawa (4,832,984) suffers from a similar deficiency. It is previously pointed out, Hawegawa's surface ink transporting layer absorbs but does not retain the ink. See column 3 lines 22-23. In any event, Hasegawa fails to show or suggest the separation of two information receiving layers by a water-resistant layer.

In summary, none of the art of record shows or suggests a receiver sheet that has one image and can receive a second image on top of the first image without the second image penetrating into and obscuring the first image.

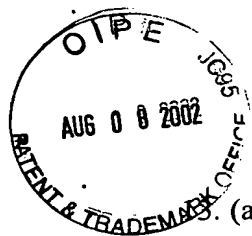
Having thus demonstrated that the invention is patentable over the art of record, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Thomas R. FitzGerald". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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## ADENDUM OF MARKED UP CLAIMS

(amended) A receiver for receiving a water-based colorant image transferred by a stamp, comprising:

(a) an image receiving structure having:

- (i) a support; and
- (ii) an information receiving layer which contains recorded information, said information receiving layer being formed over the support; and

(b) a clear layer formed over the information receiving layer for receiving and holding a water-based colorant image, said clear layer being more hydrophilic than the image receiving structure [information receiving layer].

14. (amended) A receiver for receiving a water-based colorant image transferred by a stamp, comprising:

(a) an image receiving a structure having:

- (i) a support;
- (ii) a barrier layer formed over the support; and
- (iv) an information receiving layer which contains recorded information, said information receiving layer being formed over the barrier layer; and

(b) a clear layer formed over the information receiving layer for receiving and holding a water-based colorant image, said clear layer being more hydrophilic than the image receiving structure [information receiving layer].

15. (original) The receiver of claim 13 wherein the clear layer includes gelatin formulated with surfactants.

16. (original) The receiver of claim 13 wherein the clear layer includes material selected from the group consisting of polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP), polyester ionomers, polyethylene oxide and copolymers of vinyl alcohol.

17. (original) The receiver of claim 14 wherein the clear layer includes gelatin formulated with surfactants.

18. (original) The receiver of claim 14 wherein the clear layer includes material selected from the group consisting of polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP), polyester ionomers, polyethylene oxide and copolymers of vinyl alcohol.

19. (new) A receiver for receiving a water-based colorant image transferred by a stamp, comprising:

(a) an image receiving structure having:

- (i) a support; and
- (ii) an information receiving layer which contains recorded information, said information receiving layer being formed over the support;
- (iii) a protective transparent water resistant layer over the information receiving layer for preventing penetration of water-based colorants onto the information receiving layer; and

(b) a clear layer formed over the image receiving structure, the clear layer for receiving and for holding a water-based colorant image.

20. (new) The receiver of claim 19 further comprising a barrier layer between the support and the information receiving layer.

21. (new) The receiver of claim 19 wherein the clear layer includes gelatin formulated with surfactants.

22. (new) The receiver of claim 19 wherein the clear layer includes material selected from the group consisting of polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP), polyester ionomers, polyethylene oxide and copolymers of vinyl alcohol.

23. (new) A receiver for receiving a water-based colorant image transferred by a stamp, comprising:

(a) an image receiving a structure having:

- (i) a support;
- (ii) an information receiving layer which contains recorded information, said information receiving layer being formed over the barrier layer;
- (iii) means over the information receiving layer for preventing penetration of water-based colorants onto the information receiving layer; and

(b) a clear layer formed over the image receiving structure, the clear layer for receiving and for holding a water-based colorant image.

24. (new) The receiver of claim 23 further comprising a barrier layer formed over the support.

25. (new) The receiver of claim 23 wherein the means over the information receiving layer comprises a transparent water-resistant material that prevents penetration of water-based colorants onto the information receiving layer.

26. (new) The receiver of claim 23 wherein the clear layer includes gelatin formulated with surfactants.

27. (new) The receiver of claim 23 wherein the clear layer includes material selected from the group consisting of polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP), polyester ionomers, polyethylene oxide and copolymers of vinyl alcohol.

28. (new) A receiver for receiving a water-based colorant image transferred by a stamp, comprising:

a first information receiving layer which contains recorded information, said information receiving layer being formed over the barrier layer;

a clear protective layer over the information receiving layer for preventing penetration of water-based colorants onto the information receiving layer; and  
a second information receiving layer over the clear protective layer for receiving and for holding a water-based colorant image.

29. (new) The receiver of claim 28 wherein the clear protective layer is a transparent water-resistant material.

30. (new) The receiver of claim 28 further comprising a barrier layer and a support layer with the barrier layer between the support layer and the first information receiving layer.

31. (new) The receiver of claim 28 wherein the second information receiving layer includes gelatin formulated with surfactants.

32. (new) The receiver of claim 28 wherein the second information receiving layer includes material selected from the group consisting of polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP), polyester ionomers, polyethylene oxide and copolymers of vinyl alcohol.